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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An expression cassette comprising:

- a) a bacterial promoter,  $p_{zn}$ , containing a binding site for the *Lactococcus lactis* ZitR protein, which site comprises the following sequence:

AAAAATAANGNNNNNNNTTGACATTATTTT

(SEQ ID NO:1),

in which TTGACA is the -35 box of said promoter, and N represents A, C, G or T;

- b) a sequence encoding a polypeptide with at least 80% identity with the *Lactococcus lactis* ZitR protein, placed under the transcriptional control of said promoter; and wherein the polypeptide is obtained from *Lactococcus*; and

- c) at least one restriction site allowing the insertion of a nucleotide sequence of interest under the transcriptional control of said promoter, and wherein the expression cassette does not comprise any part of the sequence encoding the *L. lactis* Zits protein.